

MEMORANDUM
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
West Central Regional Office

3019 Peters Creek Rd.

Roanoke, VA 24019

SUBJECT: Final Meeting Minutes, New River PCB Source Search Citizens' Committee

TO: Committee Members

FROM: Jay Roberts, DEQ-WCRO

DATE: September 15, 2003

COPIES: John Copeland, DGIF; Jean Gregory, DEQ; Kip Foster, DEQ

The fourth meeting of the New River Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Source Search Citizens' Committee was held on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center. Seventeen people attended the meeting, including presenters, and nine persons signed-in.

Rick Roth, Chair, started the meeting by asking that committee members and the public introduce themselves. Members attending were Darliet Colley, Phil Lockhard, Charles Maus, Sean Hash, Llyn Sharp, and Rick Roth. David Bernard, W. Tom Miller, and Ron Powers were not present.

Kip Foster introduced DEQ staff in attendance including Michele Sons, Gary Phillips, and Jay Roberts. Mr. Foster indicated that he had become project manager since Dr. Scanlan had moved to the position of Air Permit Manager. Ms. Sons was hired as PCB Inspector in February, 2003.

Dr. Roth asked if committee members had any comments on the minutes from the September 26, 2003, meeting. Hearing no comments, committee members voted to approve the minutes.

Dr. Roth requested that Jay Roberts, DEQ, proceed with the updates on fish tissue and sediment data. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. The following items were described in the course of the presentation.

- No fish tissue collections would occur in 2003 in the New River watershed. Funding permitting, fish collections would be made in 2004, including sampling below Claytor Lake Dam.
- In response to the committee's request that DEQ investigate potential methods for conducting semi-quantitative soil tests to screen sites for the presence of PCBs, it was indicated that DEQ would not be able to conduct such sampling and analysis. DEQ is prepared to collect samples from sites considered to be potential PCB sources for analysis by The College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Funds to analyze up to 53 samples are available. Availability of staff to collect samples may limit the number of samples collected because these staff will need to be pulled from other projects in order to assist with PCB sample collections.

New River PCB Source Search Citizens' Committee
Final Meeting Minutes -- 4th Meeting
Page 2 of 3

- Based upon the sediment results, DEQ recommended that additional sediment from New River should not be analyzed. The basis for the recommendation was that PCBs have been found throughout the New River in the study reach, and that additional sediment data would not help locate potential PCB sources. Committee members indicated that they concurred with staff recommendation to not analyze New River sediments at this time, but indicated that samples collected to date must be retained for possible analysis in the future.
- The committee discussed the value of sampling Walker Creek to determine whether or not PCBs are affecting the watershed. Walker Creek is an important recreational area and the Committee wishes to look very closely to see if the Walker Creek watershed is affected by PCBs. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for DEQ to sample sediments from Walker Creek as close to station 9-WLK004.34, located at the Route 622 bridge, as possible to allow the committee to further evaluate the potential presence of PCBs in the Walker Creek watershed. The committee requested that the analysis be expedited so that results would be available no later than August, 2003.

Dr. Roth requested that Michele Sons, DEQ, proceed with the discussion of the facility inventory. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. The following items were described in the course of the presentation.

- Facilities identified on the facility list would be surveyed to learn more about the historical uses of PCBs at the facilities. Information obtained in the course of the survey could either eliminate the source from further consideration as a potential source or lead to further investigation, including site inspection and potential site sampling.
- Members identified a number of specific areas that should be discussed in the survey process including a transformer storage area off Rock Road in Radford, three old landfills within the City of Radford; railroad yards in Radford; Radford University International Center, D.E. Hammond site where creosote treated railroad ties are located on Bowling Street in Radford, and the old Giles County landfill at Eggleston. There are also four landfill areas in Christiansburg which need to be addressed. At the Committee's request, the Town of Pulaski will also be surveyed.
- Members identified a number of specific areas that may not need to be surveyed including Ingles Mountain Landfill (built since 1989) and Brushy Mountain Landfill (out of watershed). It was noted that RADVA/Thermasteel may have been built in 1981, and is really one facility. It was pointed out that VPI Sanitation Authority operated a closed STP facility on Stroubles Creek, just upstream from the existing Stroubles Creek plant. The closed facility should be surveyed for possible PCBs discharges, while the existing Stroubles Creek plant has been built since 1980.

New River PCB Source Search Citizens' Committee
Final Meeting Minutes -- 4th Meeting
Page 3 of 3

- Members recommended that the survey contain a general question about the history of an industrial site. This may help obtain information about older industrial sites where previous owners may have used PCBs, but the current owner has not used PCBs. A question regarding site history / former occupants has been added to the survey.
- DEQ staff should interview people in each city, town, and county government on the New River about past land use practices in the community. Contact local planning staff, utility department staff, electrical department staff, etc., for historic information about activities that may have involved the use or disposal of materials and equipment that may have contained PCBs. Specifically ask about the location and operating practices of old landfills.
- After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for DEQ to survey inventoried facilities about their historical uses of PCBs. Dr. Roth asked that any additions by members be provided to Michele Sons, DEQ, so that they may be added to the facility list.

Dr. Roth requested that Gary Philips, DEQ, proceed with the discussion of the sampling plans. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. It was noted that facilities identified for follow-up sampling would be in accordance with a site specific sampling plan.

Dr. Roth requested that Jay Roberts, DEQ, proceed with the discussion of the project timeline. A copy of the timeline is included in the attached presentation document. The members noted that the timeline was ambitious given number of facilities identified for follow-up survey work.

- It was noted site specific sampling results may not be available until 2004, and that a final report could not be prepared for the committee until that data is received. Members asked about changing laboratories to expedite processing of sample results. DEQ staff indicated that we needed to stay with VIMS, but we will see if we can expedite the Walker Creek sediment sample analysis so the committee may redirect efforts in the Walker Creek watershed if elevated levels of PCBs are confirmed.
- Dr. Roth requested that DEQ staff regularly update committee members on the progress of survey work and study efforts. It was agreed that a newsletter format would be an acceptable way to keep members informed of the progress of staff's work.

Note that numerous questions were asked in the course of presentations; questions and answers are summarized in Attachment A.

A fifth meeting is tentatively scheduled for late August, 2003. Potential meeting topics include an update on any new fish tissue or sediment data and the progress of source search activities. The meeting adjourned at this point.

New River PCB Source Search Citizens' Committee
Fourth Meeting -- May 1, 2003
Attachment A -- Questions and Answers

Q1: Is the Radford site on New River where the 300 ppb PCB in sediment result obtained located below Connellys Run? It was noted that historically transformers may have been stored at the City of Radford Electric Department, and there was an incinerator on Connellys Run near its discharge to the New River.

A: Yes, the sediment collection site is located approximately 1.0 mile below Connellys Run in the vicinity of the City of Radford's former wastewater treatment plant discharge.

Q2: Could citizen input help with locating old dump sites?

A: Municipal and industrial landfill sites are one of the types of activities that will be investigated as a potential source of PCBs. Members may advise of specific locations that warrant investigation.

Q3: If DEQ finds PCBs on a site, will it make the facility owner clean-up the site?

A: PCBs are regulated under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act. The EPA is responsible for implementation of TSCA as it applies to PCB cleanup. DEQ and state agencies do not have any jurisdiction under TSCA for requiring site cleanup. It was noted that if soil levels greater than 50 ppm are found on a site, DEQ would inform the site owner and the EPA of the findings.

Q4: Is Hubbell Lighting in the New River Watershed?

A: Yes, according to latitude and longitude data obtained from records.

Q5: Do you have an EPA list of facilities that currently operate PCB containing transformers?

A: Yes, the facilities are Celco and AEP, Glen Lyn.

Q6: Do you have the "Monsanto List" identifying facilities that purchased PCBs in 1970, 1971, and 1972.

A: Yes, the facilities listed are Hercules (Radford Army Ammunition Plant) and Lynchburg Foundry (Intermet).

Questions and Answers
Fourth Meeting, May 1, 2003
Page 2 of 2

Q7: Do we have the authority to sample facilities that we suspect caused PCB pollution?

A: We are looking to work with facilities on a cooperative basis to try to identify potential sources of PCBs. There is an "Inspection and Entry" clause in facilities issued wastewater discharge permits that allows DEQ staff to enter, inspect, have access to and copy records, sample and monitor, etc., facilities for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act and the State Water Control Law.

Q8: How will DEQ determine if the owner of an existing industrial site, which was occupied by a previous owner who may have used PCBs, may be affected by PCBs via the survey process? The example given was New River Bend Industries, which purchased a site operated by FMC and other companies as far back as World War II.

A: We will survey, and as needed, interview current owners about past industrial uses. We may need to ask to see old facility maps of former processes in order to evaluate operations, which predate the current owner. Hopefully such records and site plans will have been passed along as part of the sales transaction.

Q9: What facilities have been surveyed to date?

A: Chemical Lime and Celco.

Q10: How confident are you in the latitude and longitude data obtained and used to map facilities?

A: The quality of the data is variable. Some were made by GPS by DEQ staff, some were obtained from EPA databases, and some from DEQ databases. A lot of the data came from permit applications. Only a few facility coordinates are critical to determining whether or not they are in the New River watershed.

Q11: How good are the drainage divide coordinates, are they accurate?

A: Watershed boundary maps are pulled from the National Hydrologic Database. We have good confidence in the watershed boundary data.

Q12: What do we know about the Allied site in the Town of Pulaski?

A: The Allied plant was tested for PCBs. Soil in the main transformer room was tested, results were negative, and transformers found on-site were determined to be non-PCB transformers based upon a check of the serial numbers.